

FEBRUARY 1996

# RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA

MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

## THE EDITOR'S SOAPBOX

Well, winter is **s l o w l y** sliding away and not soon enough! In a few short weeks, February will be over and antenna repairing weather will be gone! So if you have some outdoor antenna building work or repairing to do, don't wait till spring, do it now!

I had promised myself to stay CLEAR of the Morse code, but I did receive a very interesting message following the article written by Bill Campbell **VE3ETK** entitled "Alternative CW scheme seeks to satisfy all interests" that was published in the January/96 issue of *TCA*. I have reproduced the complete text as it says it all.

"I wasn't sure quite where to direct these comments, but I know that you edit the on-line bulletin, and that you may be interested in feedback from some amateurs at large.

I read with great interest Bill Graham's alternative CW scheme (*TCA* January 1996). His proposal is thoughtful, unsentimental, and decisive. If our amateur community is perceived to be dithering with regard to such a fundamental aspect of licensing, this and other issues may well be decided for us by the Federal government, with the strong possibility that none of us will be happy with the results.

So, though I actually agree with only about ninety percent of Mr Graham's proposal, that is good enough for me. I am willing to support it one hundred percent.

73, Douglas K. Rhodes - **VE7DFZ**"

I suggest that anyone interested in this debate should read carefully the Graham article.

Is it possible that by relaxing some of the conditions necessary to obtain a full Amateur ticket that we may increase the number of young people who may be interested in becoming full hams and helping maintain the integrity

of the ITU frequency assignments to the ham community? Obviously something is being done on a global basis, see later in this bulletin.

### CONTENTS

<b>THE EDITOR'S SOAPBOX</b> .....	1
<b>NO LICENCE FEE INCREASE IN 1996!</b> .....	2
<b>ITU TO LOOK AT AMATEUR REGULATIONS</b> ...	2
<b>GIFT TO DARF</b> .....	3
<b>FIELD DAY PACKAGE</b> .....	3
<b>COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS</b>	
<b>MUSEUM</b> .....	3
<b>THE WAR MUSEUM NEEDS EQUIPMENT</b> .....	3
<b>DIGITAL CELLPHONE AND PACEMAKERS</b> .....	4

It is encouraging that some of the clubs across the country have extracted my various editorials about the ham community and the low membership in Radio Amateurs of Canada, and reprinted them in their club bulletins. We know that many hams belong to local clubs, but do not belong to RAC, and so would not have access to those editorials otherwise. To all those clubs: "Thank you for carrying the torch". (I find it odd to pick up a club bulletin and read something vaguely familiar and discover I wrote it!)



## NO LICENCE FEE INCREASE IN 1996!

RAC Vice-President for Government Affairs, Jim Dean, **VE3IQ**, has learned that radio amateurs will not face a licence fee increase when the 1996 licence renewals are mailed out. It had been rumoured that licence fees would be increased as a consequence of the realignment of the Radio Regulations with the new Radio Communication Act of 1989. Industry Canada has revised the Radio Regulations and had expected to publish them in the Canada Gazette in December, 1995.

Industry Canada has advised that the draft revision requires some changes, and that a Gazette notice for public comment is unlikely before June, 1996. While it is expected that the realignment of the Radio Regulations will result in licence fee increases for all users of the radio spectrum, such increases will not take place in 1996 and will be instituted only after public consultation.

## ITU TO LOOK AT AMATEUR REGULATIONS

### "MORSE CODE UNDER REVIEW!"

A review of international radio regulations affecting the Amateur Radio Service and the Amateur Radio Satellite Service will take place at a World Radio Conference to be held in 1999 (WRC-99) by the world governing body, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). This matter is so important to the future of Amateur Radio that the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) is placing special emphasis on preparations for this event. There is a possibility that after WRC-99 it will not be necessary to have a working knowledge of Morse Code in order to operate below 30 MHz..

At WRC-95 one administration proposed that RR2735, the regulation requiring a knowledge of Morse Code below 30 MHz, be suppressed --- that is, abolished. Based upon policy which had been developed at recent IARU regional conferences, IARU prepared a paper opposing this proposal, and several administrations took the floor at WRC-95 in debate to oppose the abolishment of Morse Code below 30 MHz. The proposal was defeated. Following this, an agenda item for WRC-99 was established which allows regulation of the Amateur Service and Amateur Satellite Service to come under consideration. This means not just the Morse Code issue, but a complete review of regulations governing all aspects of these services will be undertaken. This presents a serious challenge to IARU --- to take a leadership role in the management of potential changes which impact on the future of Amateur Radio.

Meeting the challenge, IARU President Richard Baldwin, **W1RU** has established an ad-hoc committee named "The Future of the Amateur Service Committee" (FASC) to guide the formulation of an IARU position on the WRC-99 agenda. The committee will examine international regulations governing the Amateur Service and the Amateur Satellite Service (other than frequency allocations) with a view to formulating the changes, if any, that are desirable to properly reflect the objects, needs, obligations, and privileges of the services for the next century, so that the services remain viable and valuable, meaningful and relevant to both the community and to those licensed in the services.

The committee is chaired by Michael Owen, **VK3KI** and the members are Larry E. Price, **W4RA**; David Sumner, **K1ZZ**; John Bazley, **G3HCT**; Tom Atkins, **VE3CDM**; Terry Carrell, **ZL3QL**; and Dick Baldwin, **W4RU** (ex-officio). The committee's terms of reference are broad and encompassing. A full range of actions will be pursued including consultations with member societies and the preparation of papers, reports, recommendations and proposals for the consideration of IARU's Administrative Council.

Radio Amateurs of Canada will undertake a special review of the issues, the concerns of its members and will make known its views and position to the Region 2 IARU Executive Committee at an appropriate time. RAC's Board of Directors will review this matter at its forthcoming annual meeting at Ottawa in April 1996.



## GIFT TO DARF

The Northern Alberta Radio Club (NARC) used to make arrangements to obtain callsign plates for Alberta amateurs and had an account for that purpose. When the provincial government took over that role, NARC donated \$2126.09 to DARF (Defence of Amateur Radio Fund). Brian Napier **VE6BAD** was instrumental in arranging this donation.

## FIELD DAY PACKAGE

The old "field day package" has been replaced by a new publication, the "ARRL Contest Yearbook", incorporating the rules for all ARRL contests and other related material, plus field day information.

This book is now available through the RAC office for \$10.00, postage, handling and GST included.

Clubs are reminded to place their orders well in advance, to ensure receipt of the material prior to Field Day.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS MUSEUM

### AN UPDATE

Work at the new Communications and Electronics Museum at CFB Kingston reached another milestone this month. With the exception of the AN/GRC-26 pod (big thing that mounts on the back of a 2 1/2 ton truck!), all of the previous displays have been dismantled and moved from the old museum. This, plus all of the material from the research collection, is now in the new building. This is the first time that all of the museum's holdings have been in one place and it is truly a staggering amount of material.

The amateur radio station, **VE3RCS**, has moved to its final resting place in the centre of the display area. The 19 Set (High Power) has been assembled but not fired up (don't want to be in a hurry to put 2800 volts on 50 year old capacitors!). Antennae will be a problem until about April. After that the station will be on the air with VHF packet and the monthly "19 Set Net" on HF. That should leave enough time to sort out any snags before the official opening on 17 May 1996.

## THE WAR MUSEUM NEEDS EQUIPMENT

I recently donated some Canadian military radio gear to the National War Museum and would like to circulate a request to any amateurs who have war surplus gear of WW2 vintage, such as the Bendix TA-12 transmitter series, #19 sets and accessories and any of the Canadian military gear that may need a useful home to give me a call at 613-825-1634, E-mail me at [ralph.cameron@takeone.com](mailto:ralph.cameron@takeone.com) or via packet at **VE3BBM@VE3FD**.

The War Museum has very little radio gear and in fact has more German equipment than Canadian. They would be most grateful for donations. It seems collector speculation is removing a lot of this stuff from the market and it is very scarce.

**NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR HEADQUARTERS: [rachq@king.igs.net](mailto:rachq@king.igs.net)**



## DIGITAL CELLPHONE AND PACEMAKERS

"Laboratory research conducted by Health Protection Branch Laboratories has confirmed reports that electromagnetic interference (EMI) from nearby digital cellular phones may affect the operation of some implanted cardiac pacemakers".

It must be emphasized that these effects have been seen only with some of the new digital cellular phones now being introduced in North America; there have been no reports of interference from analog cellular phones which have been in use for a number of years. "-unquote

American clinics have reported that digital cellular phones could produce the effects of :

1. inhibition of ventricular output
2. asynchronous pacing
3. atrial channel tracking of electromagnetic noise, and
4. safety pacing ( unwanted but non hazardous pacing).

Health Canada pointed out they have not received reports of similar incidents in Canada; however, the Department has conducted laboratory tests on fourteen pacemakers and found one single chamber model and two dual chamber models were susceptible to EMI from digital cellular telephones.

The EMI effects occurred during transmission from the phone and when it was within 4.5 cms of the pacemaker. An analog phone under similar spacing did not produce an effect.

Suggestions for use of a digital cellular phone:

- a) Avoid carrying a digital cellular phone close to a pacemaker.
- b) Hold the phone to the ear opposite the side of the body where the pacemaker is implanted.
- c) Avoid carrying the phone in the breast pocket near the pacemaker.

Copies of the full text of this news release are available from RAC Headquarters for \$1. covering handling and postage. Request Medical Alert Bulletin No. 108

---

### Editors

Jacques d'Avignon, **VE3VIA**  
c/o Radio Amateurs of Canada  
614 Norris Court, Unit 6  
Kingston, ON K7P 2R9

E-mail: [monitor@limestone.kosone.com](mailto:monitor@limestone.kosone.com)

Packet Editor: Steve Cutway, **VE3GRS@VE3CDY**  
Internet Editor: Steve Cutway, [cutways@qucdn.queensu.ca](mailto:cutways@qucdn.queensu.ca)

Radio Amateurs of Canada Home Page on Internet: <http://WWW.RAC.CA>

Special thanks to Debbie Norman, General Manager RAC, who contributes significantly to the editing and proof-reading of the bulletin. Also acknowledged are those who have forwarded items for the bulletin.

The RAC News Bulletin is published monthly except July and August. The purpose is to circulate Amateur Radio news and information on a timely basis between publishing dates of *The Canadian Amateur magazine*.

All material in the Bulletin may be reprinted but please credit the Bulletin, the original author, and the original publication if one is given.

Please submit original stories or information to the editor before the 5th of the month of publication.

Annual subscriptions to RAC News Bulletin are available by mailing \$10 before September 1. Subscription expires every August 31.

Published and printed by:  
Radio Amateurs of Canada,  
Kingston, ON K7P 2R9.

**NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR HEADQUARTERS: [rachq@king.igs.net](mailto:rachq@king.igs.net)**